

# NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 2 March 2016

## Summary of meeting outcomes

### Hawkesbury Shelf Bio-region Assessment

Peter Gallagher (NSW DPI), Sarah Joyce and Elizabeth Irwin (Office of Environment and Heritage) presented the Hawkesbury Shelf Bio-region Assessment, a part of a broader NSW marine estate reform being considered for the NSW marine coastal environment as a way increasing aquatic biodiversity whilst maintaining activities relating to the marine environment. The assessment can be viewed at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au) with submissions on the assessment welcomed. It is expected the broader state-wide assessment will be on exhibition around the middle of the year.

### DPI Compliance - Operation Trident Success

Recent investigative work under Operation Trident has resulted in the prosecution of an individual in possession of a large commercial quantity of oysters. DPI Fisheries compliance stress the importance of reporting all thefts to the Police Assistance Line 13 14 44 and ensure an Event Number is obtained and provided to local Fisheries Officer with a copy of the report. The *Operation Trident Oyster Theft Reporting Form* is available on-line at [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/597922/operation-tridnet-reporting-form.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/597922/operation-tridnet-reporting-form.pdf)

### Tasmania POMS - Update

Recently a number of Tasmanian shellfish growing areas have tested positive for Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) from the OsHV-1 virus. Stock losses have been significant with upwards of 98% stock loss being experienced in some growing areas. Biosecurity NSW have placed an embargo on stock and associated equipment from Tasmania into NSW. Shellfish are permitted for sale for human consumption only.

### POMS Decontamination Protocol

Biosecurity NSW have released a revised POMS decontamination protocol for movement of infrastructure and vessels from POMS declared estuaries. A copy of the factsheet can be located here [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/458683/POMS-Oyster-equipment-movement-protocol.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/458683/POMS-Oyster-equipment-movement-protocol.pdf)

### Draft diploid Pacific Oyster Cultivation Policy

Currently Pacific Oysters are declared as a class 2 noxious fish in all NSW estuaries, excluding Port Stephens. Eight estuaries are approved for cultivation of triploid Pacific Oysters while the only estuary approved for diploid Pacific Oysters is Port Stephens. Four estuaries are classed as "High Risk" to Pacific Oysters including Port Stephens, Georges River, Hawkesbury River and the Hunter River due to the high number of natural wild Pacific Oyster stock. DPI Fisheries would consider applications, with detailed environmental assessment, that seek approval for the cultivation of diploid Pacific Oysters in estuaries classed as "High Risk" only; all other NSW estuaries would not be considered. The draft policy can be viewed at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/597666/Draft-diploid-pacific-oyster-cultivation-policy.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/597666/Draft-diploid-pacific-oyster-cultivation-policy.pdf) with submissions required prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### Bonamia Confirmation in VIC

A recent mortality event affecting Native Flat Oysters in Victoria has been linked to the confirmation of the protozoal parasite *Bonamia exitiosa*. Farming of Native Flat Oysters in Victoria is thought to rely solely on stock originating in NSW, whilst the movement from Victoria into NSW is limited. Movement restrictions are being progressed to prevent the movement of Native Flat Oysters from Victoria into NSW and prevent the spread of pathogenic *Bonamia exitiosa* in NSW.